

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s): Masanori HASHIMOTO, et al.

Serial No.: 10/808,757

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Commissioner for Patents

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

S I R:

In order to comply with discretionary regulations 37 CFR §§ 1.97 and 1.98, attached hereto is a copy of Form PTO-1449 and copies of non-US documents (if any) listed thereon. These documents contain information which the Examiner may consider to be important in deciding whether to issue a patent in the instant application.

For documents written in a language other than English, English language abstracts and/or explanations are annexed thereto explaining relevancy in accordance with 37 CFR §1.98 (a)(3).

Attached is a Notice of Reason for Rejection mailed March 25, 2008, with translation, from corresponding Japanese Application Number 2003-336250 and a Partial European Search Report dated April 1, 2008, from corresponding European Application Number 04251967.8-2412.

Each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

As this statement is being filed after the issuance of a Notice of Allowance but before

payment of the Issue Fee, please charge a fee of \$180.00 to Deposit Account 50-1290, in accordance with 37 CFR §§1.97(d) and 1.17(p).

The present Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.56 as an Examiner might consider any cited document important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent, but the citation of each document is not to be construed as an admission that such document is necessarily relevant or prior art. No representation is intended that the cited documents represent the results of a complete search, and it is anticipated that the Examiner in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search and will determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR §§1.104 (a) and 1.106 (b), and in the course of such search will review for relevance every document cited on the attached form even if not initialed.

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully solicited.

Any fee due with this paper, may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

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CUSTOMER NUMBER 026304
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